MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

SELECTIONS FROM OLD RECORDS

COIMBATORE DISTRICT

LETTERS RECEIVED FROM THE BOARD OF REVENUE 1821

(TOBACCO TRADE, ETC.)

ASO

SELECTED BY THE COLLECTOR OF COIMBATORE.

(Para 30 of the District Press Manual).

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PRINTED FOR CONVENIENCE OF REFERENCE.

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COIMBATORE:
PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, CENTRAL JAIL.
1918.

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1918.

Not for sale.]

PREFATORY NOTE.

These selections comprise the correspondence received from the Board of Revenue in 1821, on questions relating to the (1) assessment of wet lands, (2) cultivation of cotton, (3) supply of tobacco to Malabar and Travancore and (4) construction of the Sivasamudram bridge. They are printed with reference to the instructions contained in G.O. No. 172, Revenue, dated 17-1-1914, as being of administrative and historic importance.

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To

THE ACTING COLLLECTOR IN

COIMBATORE.

SIR,

I am directed by the Board of Revenue to transmit for your information and guidance copy of the undermentioned letter.

To the Collector in Malabar 4th January 1821.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

FORT ST. GEORGE,
4th January 1821.

(Sd.) R. CLARKE,
Secretary.

To

THE COLLECTOR IN

MALABAR.

SIR,

I am directed by the Board of Revenue to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant enclosing copy of a correspondence between the Acting Collector of Coimbatore and yourself relative to the Tobacco contract, and a copy of an advertisement inviting proposals for the supply of the monopoly in the ensuing Fusly 1231.

2. It appears that the rigid terms upon which you propose to contract for the Tobacco for 1231 will lead to a considerable rise in the Price—I am directed therefore to inform you that the Board are not prepared to sanction any contract which shall bind Government to pay a higher price than 14 Sps. the Candy.

3. The average prime cost of Tobacco in Coimbatore is from 5 to 6 SPs the Candy, the charges of sorting, package and carriage from thence to the coast, is about 3 Sps. A contract therefore at 14 SPs the candy is calculated to afford the Contractors a very large profit, and the Board have reason to believe that the late contracts have proved extremely advantageous to those engaged in them. It appears further that a considerable quantity of Tobacco sent in Fusly 1225 and 6 thro'. the agency of the Collector of Coimbatore cost the Government less than 11 Sps. the Candy.

4. From these facts it is clear that the terms of the contract hitherto have been sufficiently liberal to enable the Contractors to pay the Ryots a good price for their Tobacco. If they have failed to do so—the cause is to be traced to the monopoly of the market for Waddamogum Tobacco which still exists in Coimbatore in fact, tho' not in name.

5. You do not seem to be aware that the Waddamogum Tobacco grown in Coimbatore is only saleable in Malabar. The Ryots therefore are compelled to sell it either to the Contractors at their own price, or to smugglers. All the Tobacco of

of this sort, must find its way into Malabar, either thro' agency of the contractors or by an illicit trade and it is to be presumed that by far the largest quantity of the best quality, is furnished by the Contractors, who being the only authorized purchasers can get both the good and the inferior at their own price.

6. With reference to the observations contained in the 5th para of your letter under date the 1st ultimo regarding the Establishment of Peons kept up in Coimbatore and charged against the Tobacco monopoly I am directed to observe that these Peons are maintained not merely to prevent smuggling, but to protect the Villages and Inhabitants from those outrages to which unsuccessful attempts to smuggle so frequently lead.

7. You are aware that the only way by which smuggling can be prevented is to keep a strict watch upon the Villagers on the Malabar Frontier in which Tobacco is grown—and on the passes leading from them. If the Villages in Coimbatore are left unguarded and unprotected there can be no doubt that smuggling and all its attendent evils will rapidly increase as it appears impossible from the numerous passes and the nature of the country to prevent smugglers from coming into Coimbatore, tho' it often happens that they are intercepted in the neighbourhood of the Villages or on their return from them to the passes leading into Malabar.

8. This Establishment of Peons therefore is kept up entirely in consequence of the Tobacco monopoly in Malabar & it appears only just that the monopoly should be charged with the expence of maintaining them.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

FORT ST. GEORGE,
4th January 1821.

(Sd.) R. CLARKE,
Secretary.

(A true copy.)

H. C. ROMILY,
Dy. Secretary.

To

THE ACTING COLLECTOR OF

COIMBATORE.

SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 20th instant forwarding an application from the acting Resident at Travancore for the supply of 600 Candies of Tobacco for the ensuing Fusly 1231, I am directed by the Board of Revenue to inform you that they consider it advisable, that you should immediately take measures for procuring the quantity required by the Travancore Circar, without reference to the wants of the monopoly in Malabar.

2. The Ryots of Coimbatore are at liberty to dispose of their produce to whomsoever they please and as the Travancore Government has made thro' your agency the first offer in the market, it is only fair that its wants should be the first supplied. To reject an offer from the Travancore Government merely because the Province of Malabar will require a large proportion of the whole annual produce would in fact be to declare the monopoly in force again in Coimbatore. It would be to destroy all competition and to place the growers of Tobacco more at the mercy of the Contractors than they have ever been. If the Collector of Malabar had chosen to make use of your agency to obtain the supplies necessary

for the monopoly it would of course have been only just that you should have contracted both for Malabar and Travancore upon the same terms so that the deficiency might fall in equal proportions upon both countries, but with the supply of Malabar you have nothing to do, and the Collector must take the market as he finds it, after the wants of Travancore have been supplied.

3. If the Tobacco Revenue in Malabar should suffer or the people be inconvenienced by an inadequate supply of the article, it is obvious, that the evils are attributable to the want of timely arrangements for the supply of the Monopoly there. The Board are of opinion that the Ryots of Coimbatore will be greatly benefited by the demands for Tobacco from Travancore and Cochin—and in a question of this kind, the Board are bound to look to the general interests of the people with which the interests of Government are closely identified rather than to the interests of any particular branch of the Revenue. If the wants of the Travancore Circar are not supplied by you it will desert the Coimbatore market—and recur again to that of Ceylon, from whence, until very lately, its supplies of Tobacco have always been drawn.

4. From the disinclination of the Coimbatore merchants to enter into engagements with the Collector of Malabar, it must be inferred (notwithstanding the liberal terms offered to contractors) that they do not expect to find their advantage in continuing to supply the Monopoly. It is not to be expected that the merchants in Malabar will be able to supply the monopoly upon terms so fovourable as those hitherto offered by the merchants of Coimbatore, and the Board have already informed the Collector of Malabar that they are not prepared to sanction any contract which shall bind Government to pay more than 14 Sps. per candy.

5. That the supply of Tobacco should be unequal to the demand in a country where the produce may be increased to almost any extent, appears to be a very serious evil, and to be caused entirely by the Collector of Coimbatore being made the agent for the contracts with the Travancore and Cochin Circars, whilst the Collector of Malabar is left to make a contract for himself. The Board are of opinion therefore that it will be advisable that all future contracts should be made through your agency. A copy of this letter will be transmitted to the Collector of Malabar.

6. I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd which does not appear to require further notice.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) R. CLARKE,

Secretary.

Fort St. George,
25th January 1821.

To

The COLLECTOR in

COIMBATORE.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Revenue to transmit for your information and guidance copy of the undermentioned letter.

From the Secretary to Government 6th February 1821.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Sd.) R. CLARKE,

Secretary.

Fort St. George,
15th February 1821.

Commercial Department.

No. 45.

To

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE

BOARD OF REVENUE.

GENTLEMEN,

I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit for your information the accompanying copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Board of Trade, with a copy of its enclosure, respecting the successful introduction of the culture of Bourbon Cotton into Coimbatore.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
6th February 1821.

(Sd.) D. HILL,
Secretary to Government.

No. 22.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT AT

FORT ST. GEORGE.

SIR,

I am directed by the Board of Trade, to transmit the accompanying copy of a letter from the Commercial Agent at Salem, reporting on the favourable state of the Bourbon cotton Plantation and stating that as the Natives had overcome the repugnance which the novelty of it had at first excited, he was of opinion the cultivation of this valuable plant might be considered as established, and that there was the strongest reason to think it would be rapidly extended.

Under such propitious circumstances the Board beg leave to suggest that the subject of Mr. Heaths letter be communicated to the Board of Revenue.

MADRAS,
BOARD OF TRADE OFFICE,
29th January 1821.

(Sd.) T. DANIEL,
Secretary.

To

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE

BOARD OF TRADE, MADRAS.

GENTLEMEN,

Having just returned from visiting the Bourbon Cotton plantation in this neighbourhood, I avail myself of the opportunity to state to you the result of my endeavours to carry into execution, the orders received from you on this subject.

When I first received the seeds in November 1819 the season was so far advanced, that, altho' from the accounts kept by the Native head servant it appears, that upwards of three hundred acres of land were sown with the seed distributed by me, yet ~~that~~ a very small proportion of the plants came to maturity. The greatest part of those sown in the Poonjah lands appear to have perished, and those alone came to maturity which had been artificially watered.

These plants came into bearing some months ago, and about seven candies of uncleaned Cotton have been received in part payment of the advances made to the Cultivators—some men whose crops entirely failed have returned the money to the amount of Rs. 182-11-0 others whose crops failed took a further supply of seed in June and July last and intend to perform their engagements during the ensuing season.

Several new persons have come forward within the last six months and received a supply of seed and a small advance and I have reason to think that the whole quantity of land now cultivated with Bourbon cotton in this neighbourhood, and on which the plants have attained a size sufficient to place them beyond the influence of the weather, cannot be less than a thousand acres.

I have the honour to enclose a statement showing the whole amount advanced upto to this date, the amount of the cotton received from the Cultivators, the amount of cash recovered, and the balance outstanding.

With regard to the quality of the cotton already received, I cannot give a favourable report. No care whatever has been taken in gathering it, and more than one-third of it is mere refuse, I have had a candy of it picked, and the amount of refuse separated from it by the operation was 180 lb. considerably more than a third of the whole weight. This great debasement of quality however may be satisfactorily accounted for, from the circumstances under which the cultivation took place. The greatest part of the plants that came to maturity were sown in what is here called Garden land. This is land which admits of artificial irrigation from wells; this land is generally very rich and lying low is retentive of moisture. Such soils appear altogether unfit for the Bourbon Cotton, in them the plants acquire a most luxuriant groth and produce few pods, and those of a very inferior quality; it is on land of middling quality and comparatively high, with gentle slopes, that the plants appear to come to perfection. I saw some fields of this description in which the plants had been preserved during the early part of their growth by extraordinary care on the part of the cultivators in watering them during the dry weather that ensued after they were sown and their appearance and the very superior quality of their produce, formed a most instructive contrast with that of the plants sown in the Garden lands.

Besides this owing to the time at which the seed was sown, the plants came into bearing just about the time that the rains commenced. This I believe to have had a very injurious effect upon the produce and is a circumstance that may be in a great measure guarded against infuture. The plants are now coming into full bearing, and from what I saw of the produce on the Ground, the quality of it promises to be very superior to that of the cotton already received.

In order to induce the people to take more care in gathering cotton I have informed them, that if they will in picking it, separate the perfect from the imperfect pods, and bring as first and second sort, I will pay them at the rate of four Rs. a Candy for the first sort, beyond the price already agreed on, as the operation of separating the bad from the good in gathering the cotton, is attended with hardly any trouble. I am in hopes the people may be brought to attend to what I have told them—such a division of the qualities would, I should think, be attended with great advantages.

I have great satisfaction in stating it to be my opinion, that the cultivation of this valuable plant may be now considered as established in Coimbatore. The natives have got over the repugnance which the novelty of it was calculated to excite, and as they admit that it pays well there is the strongest reason to think that the cultivation of it will rapidly extend. Its chief value as a new article of cultivation, appears to be owing to its property of thriving on soils which at present afford very little in the shape of rent. Such soils are at present chiefly employed in raising the less valuable species of dry grain, and the indigenous triennial Cotton plant, this last is a wretched article, and it is probable that the cultivation of it will be gradually superseded by the Bourbon species; the cultivation of the latter will in no respect interfere with the culture of the annual cotton, the great staple of this district, or with any description of valuable produce

raised in this part of the country as the soils fitted to produce the one are totally unfit for the other, and the quantity of land of this District calculated for raising the Bourbon Cotton, and which at present is either entirely waste, or yields a very insignificant rent, is immense.

Having found that the necessity for keeping up the establishment of servants allowed me by Government for the superintendence of the cultivation no longer existed, I reduced it on the 31st December to two Conecoplies and eight Peons, which number of servants I consider to be sufficient for carrying on the business at present.

As soon as I can get them prepared, I shall have the honour of laying before you musters of the produce in its different states, together with an account of the expenses attending the picking and cleaning of the cotton.

Errode,
January 19, 1821.

(Sd.) I. M. HEATH,
Commercial Agent.

(True copies.)

R. CLARKE,
Secretary.

To

THE PRINCIPAL COLLECTOR OF

COIMBATORE.

SIR,

With reference to my letter of the 4th January, I am directed by the Board of Revenue to transmit for your consideration and report the accompanying copy of a letter from the Collector of Malabar relative to the supply of his district with Tobacco.

2. You will please to state what assistance you expect to be enabled to afford towards the supply of Malabar for the ensuing Fusly 1231.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

FORT ST. GEORGE,
Dated 5th March 1821.

R. CLARKE,
Secretary.

To

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE

BOARD OF REVENUE,

FORT ST. GEORGE.

GENTLEMEN,

Two days previous to the Receipt of your Board's letter of the 4th Ultimo, in para 2nd of which I am restricted from entertaining any offers for Tobacco, in which more than 14 Pagodas per Candy was demanded, I received one, and one

only offer to take the contract at 16 Pagodas, and although there were some little points to adjust, the receipt of your Board's sanction to the terms I proposed would have enabled me to have secured a supply of Tobacco for the consumption of Malabar for 1231.

2. On receipt of your Board's letter above alluded to, I wrote to the acting Collector of Coimbatore to request his assistance in endeavouring to get a contractor who would undertake the contract on terms at or below those determined upon by your Board.

3. Bis Ramsing was the person who made the Tender alluded to above, and I entertained sanguine hopes that he would have lowered his demand, but he has now declined having any thing to say to the concern, and as no other offer has been made here, and I have heard of none being made at Coimbatore, I am as I prognosticated, reduced to the necessity of requesting your Board to issue instructions to the Collector of Coimbatore to supply Malabar with Tobacco for the ensuing fusly.

4. I avail myself of this opportunity of suggesting, that, the employment of sorters by me at Coimbatore, as heretofore, will be attended with no advantage, but will be an unnecessary expense. Whatever Tobacco may be purchased by the Collector of Coimbatore for this market must be received by me and must be sold by me. All therefore that need be done by me is to receive it into my stores and to sell it, and it will be my plan to dispose of the worst sort first, which being fresh will sell well, although not of the first quality whilst the best will be calculated to bear keeping better.

5. I regret much to anticipate serious difficulties in the management of the Tobacco Department, inclusive particularly of that part which relates to laying in a sufficient stock of good marketable Tobacco; as independent of its being almost if not altogether, a free and open Trade from Coimbatore into Mysore, a contract has been already entered into, I am informed for the supply of 1,000 candies for Cochin, and 600 for Travancore the contractors for which will lose no time in advancing money to the Ryots and thereby secure the first and best of the crops.

6. Bis Ramsing wavered a good deal about the contract at 14 pagodas per candy, but I shrewdly suspect, the Proclamation about the farming of the customs held out an irresistibly tempting bait in every way more suited to his taste. I can only say, however, that I had anticipated in a contract with the Bis Ramsing at 16 Pagodas, a supply of the best Tobacco, and that, without the trouble and vexation which the two last contracts have given both to Mr. acting Collector Whish, and myself, the high price, he (Bis Ramsing) would have received for his Tobacco, would have enabled him to have such a command of the market in Coimbatore as to have set all competition at defiance, as the Travancore and Cochin contractors receive only 11 or 11½ Pagodas Per Candy. If the two Pagodas, over and above the sum to which your Board have limited me, were a consideration, the experience of 7 years will enable me to assert, with perfect confidence, that had an addition of 12 even been made to the monopoly price, the Inhabitants and retailers would never utter a murmur, provided the Tobacco was good, for the price is, compared to the quality, so secondary a consideration with them, as not to be mentioned at the same time.

7. I beg in conclusion to state that if the most immediate orders are not issued by your Board to the Collector of Coimbatore, I question if it will be in his power to lay in a stock of Tobacco of any description, even sufficient for the consumption of Malabar.

CALICUT, (Sd) I. VAUGHAN,
Dated 24th February 1821. *Collector.*

P.S.—Your Board may observe an apparent incongruity in that part of my letter to your Board under date the 1st of February and in such paras of this letter as relate to Bis Ramsing's having made the offer but it appears, as I then concluded was the case, that the two merchants who made the offer were to have been nearly

ostensible Contractors, but that Bis Ramasing was in fact the responsible man whether as principal or security, but had he offered himself as principal, he would have been under the necessity of giving security, in which case he must have given him a portion of the profits arising from the contract. Since then, however, he has offered to deposit in hard cash the full penalty of the contract, to be returned as he made good his contract; and to be the principal, and to contract in his own name. This explanation I have thought necessary to prevent any misconceptions. Mr. Commissioner Grame is fully apprized of what relates to Bis Ramsing as detailed in this letter.

(Sd.) I. VAUGHAN,
Collector.

(True copy).

H. C. ROMILY,
Dy. Secretary.

To

THE PRINCIPAL COLLECTOR IN

COIMBATORE.

SIR,

I am directed by the Board of Revenue to transmit for your consideration and report the accompanying copies of correspondence between the Board and the Government relative to the best mode of raising the revenue from tobacco grown in Coimbatore and consumed in Malabar.

To the Chief Secretary 12th March 1821.
From the Secretary to Government 6th April 1821.

2. On the receipt of your report the Board will submit to Government ~~and~~ their opinion on the expediency of either of the Regulations proposed to be framed, severally referred to in the 2nd and 3rd paras of Mr. Secretary Hill's letter now transmitted to you.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

FORT ST. GEORGE,
Dated 9th April 1821.

(Sd.) R. CLARKE,
Secretary.

No. 164.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO

GOVERNMENT.

SIR,

The evils arising from the Tobacco Monopoly in Malabar, and the expediency of reverting to some other plan for raising a revenue upon that article, have repeatedly been brought to the notice of the Board of Revenue, and of Government.

2. The Monopoly price of Tobacco in Malabar is 45 S.P. per Candy, the Market price of the same quantity in Coimbatore is from 5 S.P. to 6. This great difference in the price of an article, which may be considered almost a necessary of life, in districts which join each other, holds out an irresistible temptation to smuggling, and the attempt to smuggle frequently gives rise to the plunder of Villages, and other serious outrages.

3. The Government Monopoly in Coimbatore was abolished in 1817 and the trade declared free in all directions, except to the Province of Malabar. A very large proportion of the Tobacco grown in Coimbatore is fit only for the Market of Malabar, the Ryots are in consequence compelled to sell it to the persons who have the contract for supplying the Monopoly in that Province, at an arbitrary price. The freedom of trade is therefore, only a name.

4. Under these restrictions, the growers of Tobacco in Coimbatore, have a common interest with the smugglers, in carrying on an illicit trade. The smugglers can afford to pay the Ryots a much better price than the contractors. The contractors receive 14 S.P. per Candy for Tobacco delivered at the Godowns on the Coast. The smugglers can afford to pay this price to the Ryots, and realize a very large profit, by retailing it at less, than one-half the Monopoly price.

5. The Board are of opinion that the most efficacious remedy for these evils, would be to abolish the Monopoly in Malabar and to revert to the system which was followed under the Mysore Government of raising a revenue by a high transit duty upon all Tobacco imported into that Province. The net revenue derived from the Monopoly in Malabar in fusly 1229 was Rs. 1,94,091–9–2. A duty of 14 S.P. per Candy taking the supply at 2,500 Candies would yield a revenue of 35,000 S. Pags. and the Merchants would then be able to retail it at about 20 S.P. the Candy or less than one-half the present Monopoly price. This reduction in the selling price would naturally tend to lessen the illicit trade, to increase the fair demand, and with it the revenue.

6. As no additional duty upon Tobacco can be levied without the previous sanction of the authorities in England, I am directed by the Board to propose that the draft of a Regulation be transmitted to England in the usual manner containing the following provisions.

(1) The rescission of Regulation VII of 1811.

(2) Authority to be given for the levy of a duty of not more than—a Candy upon all Tobacco imported into Malabar.

7. The exact amount that it will be necessary to fix for the duty may be determined hereafter. It appears advisable in the mean time that Government should have the power of imposing the same rate of duty upon Tobacco as is now charged upon opium.

8. I am directed at the same time to submit the accompanying letter from the acting Collector of Coimbatore, enumerating the Towns on the frontier in which, as a measure of temporary precaution, it is desirable that a duty should be levied under Regulation VI of 1812—and the Board beg to propose that the duty be fixed for the present at the rate of 40 Pagodas a Candy for which under clause second section 11 of that Regulation they solicit the sanction of Government.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
12*th March* 1821.

(Sd.) R. CLARKE,
Secretary.

No. 277.

To

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE

BOARD OF REVENUE.

GENTLEMEN,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter of the 12th Ultimo (164) recommending that the tobacco monopoly in Malabar may be abolished and a transit duty imposed in its stead. The Board for preparing

Regulations will be instructed to submit the draft of a Regulation to that effect, in order that it may be forwarded to England for the sanction of the Court of Directors and Commissioners for the affairs of India.

2. The Governor in Council is however desirous that you should take into consideration, whether the revenue from tobacco might not, with less hardship on the people and with less room for fraud against the Government than by means of a transit duty, be levied in the form of a tax on the land producing it. In the mean time, the draft of the proposed Regulation will be forwarded to England, though it will be rendered unnecessary if it should be found expedient to act upon the foregoing suggestion.

3. You will also take into consideration whether it might be expedient to raise the duty on tobacco under the system of licenses, in which case the draft of another Regulation would require to be sent to England for sanction.

4. With respect to the recommendation submitted in the last paragraph of your Secretary's letter, I am directed to desire that you will obtain the opinion of the Advocate-General how far it is competent to the Governor in Council to act upon the second clause of the second section of Regulation VI-1812 in the manner you have proposed.

Fort St. George,
6th April 1821.

(Sd.) D. HILL,
Secretary to Government.

(True copies.)

H. C. ROMILY,
Dy. Secretary.

To

The PRINCIPAL COLLECTOR in
COIMBATORE.

Sir,

The Collector in Malabar having repeatedly brought to the notice of the Board the circumstance of his Commission on the Revenue derived from Tobacco having been very considerably diminished in consequence of the heavy charges incurred in your District and debited to the Tobacco Monopoly in Malabar, I am directed by the Board of Revenue to request that you will furnish the information called for in the letter addressed to your Head Assistant in charge under date the 26th August 1819 in order that a proper adjustment of the accounts between the two Districts may be effected.

	RS.	A.	P.	
1224 ...	6,387	8	0	Enclr. in the letter from the Collr. of Malabar dated 15th July 1819.
1225 ...	15,330	0	0	
1226 ...	15,330	0	0	
1227 ...	10,610	10	1	
1228 ...	7,395	15	2	
Total ...	55,054	1	3	

2. You will be pleased at the same time to state whether the employment of the large bodies of servants in your District in Fuslies 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227 and 1228 on account of the Tobacco monopoly in Malabar did not enable you to effect a proportionate reduction in your own sawyer Establishment and, if so, whether a fair proportion of the expense incurred on account of such servants should not be debited to your District.

I am,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Fort St. George,
7th June 1821.

(Sd.) R. CLARKE,
Secretary.

To

THE PRINCIPAL COLLECTOR IN

COIMBATORE.

SIR,

I am directed by the Board of Revenue to transmit for your information and guidance the accompanying Extract from their Proceedings under date the 18th instant on the subject of the settlement of the wet Lands of your District and those adjoining thereto in the Districts of Trichinopoly, Tanjore and Salem.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

FORT ST. GEORGE,
21st June 1821.

R. CLARKE,
Secretary.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue under date the 18th June 1821.

1. Read again the following correspondence on the subject of the assessment of the Wet Lands of the District of Trichinopoly, relatively with the assessment of the Wet Lands adjoining thereto, in the Districts of Coimbatore, Tanjore and Salem:—

Circular 10th August 1820.

From the Collector	of Tanjore	10th October	1820.
From Do.	of Trichinopoly	5th ,,	,,
From Do.	of do.	25th ,,	,,
From Do.	do.	13th November	,,
~~From~~ To Do.	do.	20th ,,	,,
From Do.	do.	1st December	,,
From Do.	do.	7th ,,	,,
From Do.	of Salem	28th February	1821.

2. The Board have received frequent representations from the Collector of Trichinopoly of the highness of the assessment of the Wet Lands in his District, and of the difficulties experienced by him in the realization of the Revenue, in consequence thereof and of the fall which had taken place in the price of grain, but it did not appear that the Collector of Coimbatore found any particular difficulty in realizing the Rents from the wet lands of the Talook of Caroor, which joined those of the Trichinopoly District.

3. It became therefore of importance to ascertain whether the money rents of the wet Lands of the Caroor Talook, were so low, compared with the rates of assessment of the adjoining Lands of the Trichinopoly District, as to enable the cultivators of the former to undersell their neighbours in the market.

4. With this view, as well as to ascertain the Rates of assessment of the wet Lands in the neighbouring Districts of Tanjore and Salem, the Board called upon the Collectors of these Districts, and upon the Collector of Coimbatore, to furnish a statement of the Rates of assessment, and of the average quality of Produce of a Cawney of land of each class, in the villages which bordered on the District of Trichinopoly.

10th August 1820.

5. The Collector of Trichinopoly was also informed that it was considered to be very desirable that the system of management which had been practised with such success in the Talook of Caroor, should be adopted in the neighbouring Talooks of

Proceedings of Bd of Revenue 14th August 1820 Para (14).

his District. To effect this object, and to obtain the requisite information regarding the relative rates of assessment of the Wet Lands in the two Districts, it was therefore suggested to him, that he should communicate direct with the Collector of Coimbatore, and having informed himself of all the details of the settlement, as formed in Caroor, endeavour to assimilate his own management thereto.

From Collector Trichinopoly 5th October 1820.

6. With reference to these Proceedings the Collector of Trichinopoly informed the Board, that he should lose no time in proceeding to the villages adjacent to Caroor, for the purpose of ascertaining the comparative rates of assessment existing in that Talook, and in the villages under the Trichinopoly Collectorate.

A in letter from Collector Tanjore 10th October 1820.

7. On the 10th October the Collector of Tanjore transmitted the statement called for by the Board. From this document it appeared that in 14* villages watered from the Rivers Cauvery and Vennar, the highest rate of assessment of the wet lands was from Rupees 10-3-0 to Rs. 16-4-9 per Cawney, and the lowest, from Rupees 3-14-8 to Rupees 14-13-0 per Cawney and that the average in those villages varied from Rupees 8-8-6 to Rs. 15-12-7 per Cawney giving a general average on the whole of Rupees 11-0-9⅛ per Cawney.

* *Note.*—In 4 of these villages there is no Nunjah Cultivation entered in the Statement A.

8. In 5 villages watered from Talooks, the highest rate per Cawney was from Rs. 4-0-6 to Rs. 10-8-11 and the lowest, from Rs. 2-11-0 to Rs. 4-14-0 and their average varied from Rupees 4-0-3 to Rupees 6-6-10 giving a general average on the whole of Rupees 5-0-9½ per Cawney.

9. The average quantities of the Government share of the Produce in the 14 villages for 3 years varied from Culls. 17, M. 2, M. 1½ to Culls. 30, M. 3, M. ¾, per Cawney and in the 5 villages, it varied from Culls. 5, M. 6, M. 1 to Culls. 12 per Cawney.

From Mr. Lushington 25th October 1820.

10. On the 25th October the Collector of Trichinopoly transmitted comparative statements of the rates of assessment and of the average quantity of produce per Cawney of the wet lands of Trichinopoly, and Caroor, and stated that in order to give complete effect to the directions of the Board, he had proceeded to the junction of the Districts of Trichinopoly and Coimbatore, and that the results submitted by him were obtained from a personal examination of the accounts of five villages in the Caroor Talook.

* Caroor Cawney contains 57,600 sq. feet.
Trichinopoly Cawney contains 44,100 sq. feet.
Difference 13,500 or 23-7/16 per cent.

11. From these statements it appeared that the average Teerwah per Cawney in Caroor was Rupees 10-6-3 and in Trichinopoly Rupees 10-15-4 but as the Cawney in Caroor was stated to be larger* than that in Trichinopoly by 23-7/16 per cent an addition is made to this last sum on account of the difference of measurement, of Rupees 2-9-1 making the assessment Rupees 13-8-5 upon an extent of land in Trichinopoly equal to the Caroor Cawney. This gives a difference of Rs. 3-2-2 per Cawney or 29½ per cent. To this a further addition is made by the Collector of 5 per cent. on account of charges of collection which in Coimbatore are defrayed at the expense of Government, but in Trichnopoly are deducted from the Inhabitants share, making the total assessment 34½ per cent per Cawney higher in Trichinopoly than in Caroor. The average quiantity of the Government share of the produce was stated to be in Caroor 30 Cullums, and in Trichinopoly 25 Culls , 9 M., 2 M per Cawney but if to this last, is added 23-7/16 per cent, on account of the difference in the size of the Cawney, the produce will be 31 Culls., 10 M., per Cawney.

12. On the 15th November the Collector of Trichinopoly transmitted comparative statements of the Rates of assessment, and of the actual collection per Cawney, on the wet lands of Trichinopoly and Tanjore, together with the copy of a letter he had received from the Collector of Tanjore, in reply to certain queries which he had addressed to him.

13. From these statements it appeared that the average assessment per Cawney on the whole of the wet lands of Tanjore was Rupees 7, As. 4, P. $2\frac{3}{4}$ while in Trichinopoly it was Rupees 10-8-$1\frac{1}{4}$ to which an addition of Rupees 2-7-$4\frac{1}{2}$ is made on account of the difference in the size of the Cawney, making the assessment Rupees 12-15-$5\frac{3}{4}$ on an extent of land in Trichinopoly, equal to the Tanjore Cawney, being a difference of Rupees 5, As. 11, P. 3 per Cawney or 44 per cent.

14. If the total extent of wet Cultivation in Trichinopoly were reduced to Cawnies of the size of the Tanjore Cawney, Viz. 57,600 square feet, it would amount to Cawnies 59,143, Gds. 88, As. 12 upon which the collections for fusly 1229 up to the 31st October 1820 were Rupees 5,18,500-5-8 or Rupees 8-12-3 per Cawney, being Rupees 1-8-$\frac{1}{4}$ per Cawney higher than the assessment in Tanjore.

15. The Collector in transmitting these Documents expressed his regret at the contrast which had been drawn by the Board so much to his disadvantage as a public servant, between the Revenue administration of Coimbatore and Trichinopoly. He also observed "that had the same moderation been observed in assess-
"ing Trichinopoly that was manifested in assessing Tanjore and Coimbatore,
"there would not have been at this moment a single Rupee of the Decennial lease
"unrealized but when a Disrtict is assessd no less than 39 per cent higher than
"the two adjoining Districts, annual Balances in the one, and the prompt realiza-
"tion of the Revenue in the other two, may I think be reasonably expected with-
"out any particular blame being attachable to the Collector of the over assessed
"District."

To Mr. Lushington 20th November 1820.

16. The Board in reply explained to the Collector, that it was by no means their intention to draw a contrast between his management and that of the Collector of Coimbatore, but that they had mentioned the comparative facility with which the Revenue was collected in Caroor, as a subject deserving of enquiry. They also informed him that in drawing his attention to the success which had attended the introduction of survey assessments and individual Rents into the Caroor Talook, they wished to infer that it was practicable to establish a similar system with advantage, in Trichinopoly and that in requesting him to assimilate his management to that followed in Caroor, they had in view the abrogation of the lease, and the introduction of a Ryotwar settlement into Trichinopoly.

17. The Board in conclusion requested that he would in addition to the information already furnished by him, forward a statement, in a Form sent to him, of the rates of assessment per Cawney on the wet lands of a certain number of villages in his District, which the Board named, and which adjoined the District of Tanjore. He was requested also to explain the grounds upon which he had ascertained that the Cawney in his District contained 23-7/16 per cent less than the Cawney of Tanjore and Caroor.

From Mr. Lushington 1st and 7th December ~~1290~~ 1820.

18. To this communication the Collector replied on the 1st and 7th December. In the first of these letters he stated that the difference of the measurements in Trichinopoly and the adjoining Districts had been ascertained by comparing the two measuring Rods—that the Rod in Tanjore and Coimbatore was 24 English feet, and in Trichinopoly 21 English feet, so that the Cawney in the former was the same as the Madras Cawney and contained 57,600 square feet, while in the latter it contained only 44,100 square feet.

19. From the statement forwarded in the Collector's other letter of the 7th December it appeared that in the 16 villages named by the Board, of which 8 were watered from Rivers, and 8 from Tanks, the average assessment per Cawney varied from Rupees 4-2-2 to Rupees 17-5-0 and that the general average on the whole was Rs. 10-3-0 per Cawney but as the Collector stated that the observations he had submitted, with respect to the difference in the measurement of the Cawney, would apply also to this statement, an addition of 23-7/16 per cent must be made to the above assessment, which would bring it to Rupees ~~22~~ 12-9-$2\frac{3}{8}$ per Cawney. The produce in these boundary villages was also stated to be particularly low, in consequence of their unfavourable situation.

28th February 1821.

20. The statement furnished by the Collector of Salem shewed the assessment per acre on each description of wet land in the Talooks of Ahtoor and Namcul. The highest rate of assessment per acre was Rs. 24-13-10 and the lowest Rs. 4-2-8 and upon a calculation of the assessment each Cawney, allowing 160 acres to 121 Cawnies, the average assessment per Cawney in Ahtoor would be Rupees 19-13-4 and in Namcul Rupees 16-15-$\frac{3}{4}$ giving an average assessment upon the whole of Rupees 17-13-13$\frac{1}{2}$ per Cawney. The Government share of the produce was in Ahtoor from Culls. 8, M. 7, to Culls. 34, Ml. 3$\frac{1}{2}$, per acre or from Culls. 11, Ml. 4, to Culls. 45, M. 4 per Cawney and in Namcul from 5-5$\frac{1}{2}$ to 35,-6 per acre or from Culls. 7, Ml. 2$\frac{1}{2}$, to Culls. 46, M. 11$\frac{3}{4}$ per Cawney.

21. The following abstract statement exhibits at one view the relative assessment and produce per Cawney of the wet lands in the Districts of Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Coimbatore and Salem.

—	Highest assessment per Cawney.	Lowest assessment per Cawney.	Average assessment per Cawney.	General average per Cawney.	Government share per Cawney.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	CULLS ML. M.
Tanjore.					
In 14 villages watered from Rivers.	From 10 3 0 To 16 4 9	From 3 14 8 To 14 13 0	From 8 8 6 To 15 12 7	11 0 9$\frac{1}{2}$	From 17 2 1$\frac{1}{8}$ To 30 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
In 5 villages watered from Tanks...	From 4 0 6 To 10 8 11	From 2 11 0 To 4 14 0	From 4 0 3 To 6 6 10	5 0 9$\frac{1}{2}$	From 5 6 0 To 12 0 0
On all the wet lands of the District.	...	...	...	7 4 2$\frac{3}{4}$	...
Trichinopoly.					
On all the wet lands of the District.	...	...	...	12 15 5$\frac{3}{4}$	...
On the extent of Cultivation per Decennial lease.	...	...	...	13 8 5	31 10 0
In 16 villages adjoining to Caroor...	...	...	From 4 2 2 To 17 5 0	12 9 2$\frac{3}{8}$	From 5 5$\frac{1}{2}$ 0 To 35 6 0
Caroor in Coimbatore	...	...	...	10 6 3	30 0 0
Salem.					
Ahtoor	...	...	19 13 4	17 13 13$\frac{1}{2}$	From 11 4 0 To 45 4 0
Namcul	...	...	16 15 $\frac{3}{4}$		From 7 2$\frac{1}{2}$ 0 To 46 11$\frac{3}{4}$ 0

Note.—The calculations for the Trichinopoly District, are here made upon the Cawney of the same size as in Tanjore, Coimbatore and Salem.

22. From this statement it appears that the assessment of the wet lands in Salem is considerably higher than in any of the other Districts. To meet this increased demand the produce it is true is greater, but the assessment still appears to be too high and a reference will be made to the Collector to ascertain how far it is paid with ease and whether it may not be expedient to make some reduction.

23. If the data upon which the statements furnished by the Collector of Trichinopoly have been founded, are correct, there can be no doubt of the assessment in his District being higher than in Tanjore and Caroor, while the difference in the quantity of produce, appears to be rather in favouro f Trichinopoly but not so much so, as to make up for the excess in the assessment.

To Government 8th February
From Government 6th March.

To the end of April 1821.
Fusly 1229 current revenue to 30th pril 1820—8,53,096.
Fusly 1230 Do. to 30th April 1821 ... 11,01,949
Difference more Rs. 2,48,853

24. It seems therefore to be proper that some reduction should be made in the public demand, in the District of Trichinopoly, and this measure has, at the recommendation of the Board already received the sanction of Government which has been duly communicated to the Collector. The Board however cannot help remarking that while the representations of the Collector, urging a reduction in the assessment have been very frequent, there appears by the Demand Collection and Balance account last received from him an increase in the amount of collections of Land Revenue for fusly 1230, of no less than Rupees 2,48,853.

25. This result is at variance with the existence of over assessment, and the Board will be glad to receive an explanation from the Collector of the cause of this increase, at the very time when a reduction of the public demand has been strongly urged by himself, recommended by the Board, and sanctioned by the Government.

26. Ordered that Extract of these Proceedings be submitted to the Honorable the Governor in Council and copies of it be transmitted to the Collectors of Trichinopoly, Coimbatore, Tanjore and Salem.

(True Extract.)

R. CLARKE,
Secretary.

To

THE PRINCIPAL COLLECTOR IN

COIMBATORE.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 24th of August 1821, I am directed by the Board of Revenue to transmit for your information and guidance copies of the undermentioned Letters.

To the Chief Secretary to Govt.	3rd September 1821.
From the Secretary to Govt.	30th October 1821.
To the Chief Secretary to Govt.	5th November 1821.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. CLARKE,
Secretary.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
Dated 5th November 1821.

No. 525.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

SIR,

With reference to the letter from the Secretary to Government in the Revenue Department under date the 8th January 1819 (No. 14), I am directed by the Board of Revenue to request that you will submit for the consideration and orders of the Honorable the Governor in Council the accompanying letter from the Principal Collectr of Coimbatore.

24th August, 1821.

2. It appears that Ramasawmy Moodely* one of the persons whose names are subscribed to the petition forwarded with the Board's letter to Government of the 17th December 1818 has at his own expense completed a stone bridge of 113 arches and 1,000 feet in length by 13 ~~feet~~ in breadth and 23 feet in height, over one of the branches of the Cavery at the Island of Sevana Samoodra and that another bridge of a similar description remains to be constructed to connect the Island with the opposite bank of the river.

*Note—He is called Ramasawmy Naik in the petition.

3. The object of the Collector's letter is to obtain the grant of the village of Satigal now yielding a Revenue of Rupees 3,150 per annum for the support of the bridge over the eastern branch of the river which is already completed and the grant of another village yielding Rupees 3,850 per annum for the support of that which is hereafter to be made over the western branch—together with a loan of 70,000 Rupees to be made by instalments as the work proceeds and to be repaid in six years after the bridge has been completed.

4. The Governor in Council is aware that the Island of Sevana Samoodra has already been conferred on the persons who petitioned the Government on condition that they were to "clear the "Island, to replace the bridge, to repair the Pagodas, to "establish a village, and to build a Bangaloe"—a very small part only of these conditions has as yet been performed—and the Board when they recommended the grant of the Island of Sevana Samoodra did not expect that the Government would afterwards be called upon to assist the views of the petitioners by the grant of two villages and a loan of 70,000 Rupees. They are not therefore prepared to recommend a compliance with the Collector's suggestions particularly as it seems doubtful whether the public benefits to be derived from the work will be of the extent or importance noticed in the 8th para of the Collector's letter.

Vide para 4 of the Collr.'s letter of the 23rd November 1818.

5. The Collector has submitted a Cowle for the Island of Sevana Samoodra which is observed to be drawn up in the name of Ramasamy Moodely only and not in those of "the principal "Merchants and inhabitants of the towns of Mysore and "Seringapatam" at whose solicitation it was resolved to give up the Island for the purposes above specified.

Collector's letter of the 23rd November 1818.

6. In explanation of this the Collector has stated that the names affixed to the petition first presented, were obtained by Ramasawmy Moodely to add weight to the application but that not one of them has contributed the smallest pecuniary, or personal assistance, to the work.

7. The Board have made such alterations in the Cowle, as appeared to them to be proper.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) R. CLARKE,
Secretary.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
Dated 3rd September 1821.

A Cowle granted—by the Honorable Sir Thomas Munro K.C.B., Governor in Council of Fort St. George and its dependencies on the part of the Honorable East India Company and subject to the confirmation of the Honorable the Court of Directors.

It is hereby declared that the Honorable the Governor in Council of Fort St. George has been pleased to assign free of rent the Island of Sevana Samoodra near the village of Satigaul in the Zilla of Coimbatore for the support of the Bridges—Pagodas and other religious or charitable institutions which have already been or may hereafter be erected and established at that place and that so long as such Bridges, Pagodas and other religious or charitable institutions are kept in repair and supported the said Island shall not be resumed by the Government but shall be held and considered to be free of all rents and taxes whatsoever.

No. 806.

To

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF REVENUE.

GENTLEMEN,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter of the 3rd ultimo (525) with its enclosures. In your Secretary's letter of the 17th of December 1818, it was represented that, if the Island of Samoodra were granted rent free to certain natives, various beneficial measures would be executed by the grantees and among others a former bridge to the island would be replaced. It was at the same time stated that the revenue yielded by the island did not amount to more than 28 pagodas per annum. In the letter from the Principal Collector now forwarded, the Government are informed that the bridge over one branch of the Cavery has been replaced, but it does not appear whether any progress has been made in executing any of the other measures which were proposed and an application is made for the grant of the village of Satigal yielding 900 pagodas a year for the support of the bridge. It further appears that the former application in the name of a number of natives was in reality preferred only by one. The Governor in Council cannot comply with the present application for an additional grant to an extent so far exceeding what was originally stipulated for, and under the circumstances above stated does not feel disposed to extend the grant at all. The Superintending Engineer at Bangalore will however be desired to take some convenient opportunity of visiting the bridge and to report what may appear to him to have been the probable expense of replacing it. It is presumed that the island is already in Ramasawmy's possession, but the issue of a cowle for it will for the present be deferred.

(2nd) 3. With respect to the further project of replacing the bridge over the other arm of the couvery, for which a grant of a village yielding 1,100–pagodas a year and a loan of 20,000–pagodas is requested, the Governor in Council does not consider it advisable for Government to execute the particular undertaking on the terms proposed or any undertaking in this kind of partnership with a private individual.

I am,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Sd.) D. HILL,
Secretary to Government.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
Dated 30*th October* 1821.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

SIR,

With reference to Mr. Secretary Hill's letter of the 30th October and for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council, I am directed by the Board of Revenue to request that you will submit the accompanying letter from the Principal Collector of Coimbatore, and the plan which accompanied it of the bridge lately erected over the Eastern branch of the Cauvery at Sevana Samoodrum.

I am,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Sd.) R. CLARKE,
Secretary.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
Dated 5*th November* 1821.

(True Copies).
H. C. ROMILY,
Deputy Secretary.